

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Program Director (UPD) Report

Emily Hom - 11/7/2024 12:19:41 PM -05:00

Received

Date:

By:

Comment:

Instructions

This is a form for SEBS Governing Council major representatives. The purpose of this form is to encourage student engagement with faculty/department representatives and to identify academic issues that may be addressed by the council.

1. Talk to students in your major, ask around if there are any current academic issues (ex: class conflicts within the major, issues with professors or department, lack of resources).
2. Look at Degree Navigator, write down the course requirements
3. Formulate a list of things you would like to know about the program (corporate connections with the university, current research projects, opportunities for students to get involved, recent changes to the program)
4. Email Undergraduate Program Director and Arrange Appointment
5. Fill out this form and submit by 11:59pm on November 17th, 2024.

n/a

General Information

Your Name

Emily Hom

Your Email

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Represented Major

Public Health

Date of Meeting with UPD

11/7/2024

Class Year

2025

UPD Name

Dean Christina Torian

UPD Email

christina.torian@rutgers.edu

Major/Departmental Website Link (if applicable)

<https://bloustein.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/publichealth/>

Major Information

Major Options -- What options are offered within the major? How do they differ?

There are many different pathways, societies, and organizations you can choose in the public health major. There are a few honors societies such as Eta Sigma Gamma which is the National Health Education Honors Society open to majors and minors, the up an coming Delta Alpha Pi for students with disabilities, and possibly a chapter of Delta Omega which is the National Public Health Honor Society. The public health major also has a new certificate program with the NJ cancer registrar for cancer surveillance and epidemiology for students interested in cancer research. There is also a new SEBS + Bloustein minor that is likely to be launched in the spring 2025 for health equity focusing on health disparities courses.

Total Number of Students within the Major (estimate if unknown from UPD)

Currently 448; however, the public health major has many prerequisites and has specific declaration periods in each semester so this number is projected to be around 500 by mid spring semester.

Goals within the Major -- What are expectations of students post-graduation?

Most students go on to graduate school on a variety of tracks including research, healthcare, law, etc. The public health major is designed with an internship or honors research requirement to be fulfilled before graduation which helps introduce students to the field and find their specific niche or concentration and helps with job prospects after graduation and or graduate school applications.

List Upper-Level major courses -- What is the goal of each course?

- Writing for Professionals (10:775:300) to teach students how to analyze, formulate ideas, oral/written forms - Public Health Literature (10832:339) is built on the foundations of public health specifically, geared towards health speaking, communication, media, and diverse audiences - Epidemiology (10:832:335) core discipline in public health, foundational skills and concepts of epidemiology, math/statistical analysis and concepts - Public Health Law and Ethics (10:832:356) focus on ethics in health care, advocacy and issues in health law - Research Methods (10:775:395) methods course for field work, population data collection and analysis, important for graduate school and beyond - Leadership Seminar (10:775:450) professional development course to help prepare students for entering the work force/grad school with resume and cover letter building, public service project, internship, etc - Professional Practice Internship and Bloustein Honors Research helps students get work and or high level research experience which will help them find a niche/concentration in the field as well as gain experience for future jobs and graduate school pursuits

Student Issues

Are there concerns with classes within the major? Are there any suggestions for solutions to these concerns?

- Public health courses are open to all students regardless of major declaration so many go through the curriculum without declaring their major and therefore are not assigned a Bloustein advisor... advising services is working on making an advising appointment required before declaring the public health major to mitigate these issues - Because of this, many students fail to realize the course sequencing within the public health major and miss out on final year opportunities and or do not graduate on time such as the Bloustein Honors Research Program because they have not completed the prior requirements.

From the perspective of the UPD or other major faculty members, what can currently be improved upon in the major or department? Are there any suggestions for solutions to these issues?

- See previous answer about pre-declaration advising. - Student services wants to do more programming and events but it is difficult because students do not come - Want to create a transition seminar for transfer and first year students entering the program, baseline introductory course intro to public health or something similar

Are there any Visitor Events/Talks/Seminars/etc. going on within the major?

- Not for the rest of the semester, wait for spring - See the What's Next Canvas page for all Bloustein public health major related events and opportunities - Check email blasts

Suggestions for students in this major (ex: organizations to join, news to pay attention to)

- See first answer about majors and pathway options

Changes within the major for the upcoming year

- this summer the elective requirements changed and opened up to different fields with health related courses such as public policy, urban planning and design, Africana studies, medical ethics, etc

Any other suggestions, comments, concerns?

- The public health major at the Bloustein school is accredited and therefore is held to high quality standards that are reviewed every 7 years. The faculty puts a lot of thought into building their curriculum and keeping it updated to stay relevant with our current public health needs such as adding Health Disparities and Global Health Perspectives courses in recent years. - Dean Torian would like to see more global health study abroad options for public health majors, especially with the introduction of the global health policy certificate. She believes that you cannot have a global health program and not focus on global health issues - more global and international based courses should be offered to satisfy elective and program requirements.